

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

XIANGSHAN ZHANG,
an individual,

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant,

v.

VIVOSUN INC.,
a California corporation,

Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.

Case No. 5:22-cv-01947-JAK-RAO

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

District Judge Hon. John A. Kronstadt
Magistrate Judge Hon. Rozella A. Oliver

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles.

1 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

2 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and
3 other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or
4 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and
5 from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
6 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
7 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
8 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
9 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
10 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
11 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
12 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
13 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
14 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
15 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
16 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
17 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
18 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
19 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
20 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,
21 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public
22 record of this case.

23 C. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR FILING UNDER SEAL

24 The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this
25 Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information
26 under seal; Local Civil Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed
27
28

1 and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court
2 to file material under seal.

3 There is a strong presumption that the public has a right of access to judicial
4 proceedings and records in civil cases. In connection with non-dispositive motions,
5 good cause must be shown to support a filing under seal. *See Kamakana v. City and*
6 *County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006); *Phillips v. Gen. Motors*
7 *Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002); *Makar-Welbon v. Sony Electronics,*
8 *Inc.*, 187 F.R.D. 576, 577 (E.D. Wis. 1999) (even stipulated protective orders
9 require good cause showing), and a specific showing of good cause or compelling
10 reasons with proper evidentiary support and legal justification, must be made with
11 respect to Protected Material that a party seeks to file under seal. The parties' mere
12 designation of Disclosure or Discovery Material as CONFIDENTIAL does not—
13 without the submission of competent evidence by declaration, establishing that the
14 material sought to be filed under seal qualifies as confidential, privileged, or
15 otherwise protectable—constitute good cause.

16 Further, if a party requests sealing related to a dispositive motion or trial, then
17 compelling reasons, not only good cause, for the sealing must be shown, and the
18 relief sought shall be narrowly tailored to serve the specific interest to be protected.
19 *See Pintos v. Pacific Creditors Ass'n*, 605 F.3d 665, 677-79 (9th Cir. 2010). For
20 each item or type of information, document, or thing sought to be filed or introduced
21 under seal in connection with a dispositive motion or trial, the party seeking
22 protection must articulate compelling reasons, supported by specific facts and legal
23 justification, for the requested sealing order. Again, competent evidence supporting
24 the application to file documents under seal must be provided by declaration.

25 Any document that is not confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable in
26 its entirety will not be filed under seal if the confidential portions can be redacted.
27 If documents can be redacted, then a redacted version for public viewing, omitting
28

1 only the confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable portions of the document
2 shall be filed. Any application that seeks to file documents under seal in their
3 entirety should include an explanation of why redaction is not feasible.

4 2. DEFINITIONS

5 2.1 Action: this pending federal lawsuit.

6 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the
7 designation of information or items under this Order.

8 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
9 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
10 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
11 the Good Cause Statement.

12 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
13 their support staff).

14 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
15 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
16 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

17 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
18 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
19 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things) that are produced or
20 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

21 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
22 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
23 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

24 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
25 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
26 counsel.

27 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association or
28

1 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

2 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
3 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
4 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
5 that has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

6 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
7 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
8 support staffs).

9 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
10 Discovery Material in this Action.

11 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
12 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
13 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
14 and their employees and subcontractors.

15 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
16 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

17 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
18 Material from a Producing Party.

19 3. SCOPE

20 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
21 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
22 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
23 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
24 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

25 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
26 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

1 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
 2 this Order (*see, e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
 3 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
 4 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
 5 produced.

6 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

7 (a) for information in documentary form (*e.g.*, paper or electronic
 8 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
 9 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
 10 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
 11 contains protected material. If only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for
 12 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
 13 (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

14 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
 15 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
 16 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
 17 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
 18 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
 19 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
 20 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then,
 21 before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
 22 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
 23 portion of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also
 24 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings
 25 in the margins).

26 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies
 27 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the
 28

1 deposition all protected testimony.

2 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and
3 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
4 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
5 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information
6 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
7 protected portion(s).

8 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
9 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
10 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
11 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
12 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
13 Order.

14 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

15 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
16 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
17 Scheduling Order.

18 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
19 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

20 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
21 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
22 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
23 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
24 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
25 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
26 entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the
27 challenge.

1 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
 3 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
 4 Action only for prosecuting, defending or attempting to settle this Action. Such
 5 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
 6 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
 7 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
 8 DISPOSITION).

9 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
 10 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
 11 authorized under this Order.

12 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
 13 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
 14 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
 15 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

16 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
 17 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
 18 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

19 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
 20 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

21 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
 22 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
 23 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

24 (d) the court and its personnel;

25 (e) court reporters and their staff;

26 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
 27 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
 28

1 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

2 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
3 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

4 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
5 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
6 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they
7 will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
8 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
9 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
10 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
11 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
12 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

13 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
14 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

15 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
16 IN OTHER LITIGATION

17 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
18 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
19 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

20 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
21 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

22 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
23 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
24 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include
25 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

26 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
27 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.
28

1 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
 2 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
 3 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
 4 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
 5 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
 6 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
 7 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
 8 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
 10 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

11 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
 12 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
 13 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
 14 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
 15 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

16 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
 17 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
 18 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
 19 confidential information, then the Party shall:

20 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
 21 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
 22 agreement with a Non-Party;

23 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
 24 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
 25 specific description of the information requested; and

26 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
 27 Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work

1 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
2 protective order submitted to the court.

3 12. MISCELLANEOUS

4 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
5 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

6 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
7 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
8 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
9 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
10 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

11 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
12 Protected Material must comply with Local Civil Rule 79-5. Protected Material
13 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
14 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
15 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
16 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

17 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

18 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
19 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
20 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
21 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
22 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
23 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
24 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
25 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
26 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
27 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
28

1 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any
2 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
3 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
4 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
5 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
6 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
7 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
8 Section 4 (DURATION).

9 ///

11 ///

13 ///

15 ///

17 ///

19 ///

22 ///

24 ///

25 ///

28 ///

14. VIOLATION

Any violation of this Order may be punished by appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: September 1, 2023

/s/ Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu

Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu (SBN 294922)

deniz@bayramoglu-legal.com

Shawn A. Mangano (SBN 208067)

shawnmangano@bayramoglu-legal.com

Gokalp Bayramoglu (SBN 268222)

gokalp@bayramoglu-legal.com

BAYRAMOGLU LAW OFFICES LLC

1540 West Warm Springs Road Ste. 100

Henderson, NV 89014

Tel: (702) 462-5973

Fax: (702) 553-3404

Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant

DATED: September 1, 2023

/s/ Yitai Hu

YITAI HU (SBN 248085)

Yitai@eponymlaw.com

EPONYM LAW GROUP

405 El Camino Real, Ste. 633

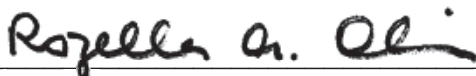
Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240

Tel: (650) 575-1518

Attorney for Defendant-Counterclaimant

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 1, 2023



HON. ROZELLA A. OLIVER

United States Magistrate Judge

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE ATTESTATION
PURSUANT TO L.R. 5-4.3.4(a)(2)(i)

I hereby attest that all other signatories listed below, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing of this Stipulated Protective Order.

/s/ Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu
Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, hereby certify that on September 1, 2023, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Court using the CM/ECF system, and thereby delivered the foregoing by electronic means to all counsel of record.

By: /s/ Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu
Nihat Deniz Bayramoglu

EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury
 that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
 was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California
 on [date] in the case of _____ **[insert formal name of the case and the
 number and initials assigned to it by the court]**. I agree to comply with and to be
 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and
 acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment
 in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any
 person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
 Central District of California for enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
 _____ [print or type full address and
 telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with
 this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective
 Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____